

about \$100 million nationwide because the Department just does not have a way to figure out who are the prisoners or not. These funds, Mr. Speaker, could have paid for 45,000 monthly compensation benefits for disabled veterans who do deserve it and who do need those benefits.

Last year, Mr. Speaker, \$366 million in Pell grant awards were improperly given out because applicants basically understated their income. These funds were wasted on people that do not qualify could have paid for over 84,000 Pell grants for people that do deserve those benefits.

Mr. Speaker, President Bush is committed to eliminating these improper payments that plague these very important government programs. In fact, the President's management agenda has identified improper payments as one of the main elements within the administration's initiative to improve financial management.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the American people should not be fooled, and they are not fooled, when millions of dollars are being spent on benefits for dead people, millions of dollars going to people in prisons that clearly do not qualify, millions going to people that lie on their applications. And despite all this, Mr. Speaker, the Democrats still want to raise the hard-working American taxpayers' taxes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KING of Iowa). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WEINER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11 VICTIMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago tomorrow morning over 3,000 of our fellow citizens lost their lives in a series of terrorist attacks. I lost 383 friends and neighbors on Long Island alone. When I think about tomorrow morning, we in Congress are here; we in Congress are going about our business. But I remember looking out of my window and seeing the smoke coming from the Pentagon, and I remember looking up and watching TV and seeing the plane going into the Twin Towers. And within a few moments watching another plane hit the Towers, as all of us realized we were under attack.

I will think of the families that have lost their loved ones tomorrow morning, and I will think of our firemen and our police officers and all our people that ran into the buildings to try to save those that they could. I will think about my nurses that stood by in the hospitals ready for the survivors.

There are many people that will say to these victims to get on with their lives, to move forward. I would say to those people that they have gotten on with their lives; they have moved forward, but the pain is still there. And I say to the victims that I know it has been a tough 2 years, but you have survived. I know they have been there for their families and their children and the mothers and the fathers that have lost their children.

I hope the American people will really remember what September 11 was, because we as Americans came together. We as Americans opened our hearts and our pocketbooks. New Yorkers were there for everybody, the rest of the country, and this Congress was there for us.

The heroism that went on that day was unbelievable, but that is what we as Americans do. A lot of times we forget, because our lives are so busy; and yet when a tragedy hits this country, we have all come together. I ask my fellow Americans to remember the tragedy of 2 years ago tomorrow morning, and I ask them to remember by doing an act of kindness. I ask my friends on Long Island to reach out to those families, because they are going to need it.

I will be very honest with you, their first anniversary they are still in shock. And a lot of times the second and third and fourth anniversary is when the pain hits the hardest, and I talk from experience. But I will say to all those that were affected that your life will go on, as hard as it is, and you will learn to smile again and laugh again. Because we have this sense of survival in us. But I also know we survive because of all the people around us that are there for us.

We also found out that there are people out there that do not like us and do want to attack us. But we as Americans will fight back. They can try and take down a building but they cannot take away who we are. We are Americans. I will ask everyone watching to light a candle tomorrow and to remember all those that have died and those that are continuing to die for our freedom.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. NORWOOD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REMEMBERING A.C. BARGER OF CENTERVILLE, TEXAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of A.C. Barger of Centerville, Texas, a constituent, friend, and distinguished

American who recently passed away. A.C. Barger was a patriot who loved his country dearly. As an Army veteran, he fought for freedom. A.C. saw action on the front lines of the Korean War. He put his life on the line for others. He knew freedom is never free.

A successful businessman who worked his way from the ground up, A.C. became the owner of the Wormser Hat Company, creating jobs and hope and opportunity for others. A.C. Barger was an entrepreneur. A loyal Republican, A.C. worked tirelessly to elect Republican candidates and was responsible for leading the Leon County Republican Party in my district, and all agree he was the heart and soul of that party.

As one who loved his fellow man, A.C. was well known for his volunteer services. From serving as the director of the Leon County Crime Stoppers, to leading the local VFW, to volunteering at the senior center, A.C. Barger made a difference in people's lives. A devoted Christian and devoted family man, A.C. was a lay minister in the Methodist Church and was married to his lovely wife, Darlene, for 45 years.

Mr. Speaker, in 8 days I am due to become the father of a son. I can think of no greater tribute to pay a man than to say I would be proud to have my son grow up and be like A.C. Barger. I have no doubt that A.C. has been received with the words "Well done, good and faithful servant." I was proud to know A.C. Barger, and we will miss him.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HENSARLING. I yield to the gentleman from Texas, a dear friend of Mr. Barger's.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, and I rise with him tonight to honor the memory of our fellow friend and Texan, A.C. Barger of Leon County, Texas.

A.C. left us in July; and although I am saddened by the loss of such a vibrant and caring person, I feel privileged to have known him and will tell you that my life was honored as a result of his service not only to me but to others.

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A.C. left behind a giant footprint throughout his years, and he touched the lives of many, many people. He opened his home to me on numerous occasions and I can testify he was a man filled with the joy of living. He was also a man dedicated to service, service to his wife, service to his family, service to his Lord, service to his community, service to his country. He was a husband, a father, a friend, and a patriot.

From his service to the U.S. Army in Korea, to his work with the youth and elderly in Leon County, Texas, A.C. Barger made a difference and inspired others to do the same. Anyone can talk about ideas, but A.C. recognized that only actions ultimately mattered. He cared about people, and he did his very best to provide them with happiness.

A.C. walked the walk when it came to putting others first.

I thank A.C.'s family for sharing him with us over the years. A.C. leaves behind his wife of 45 years, Darlene, as well as his daughters, Kathy and Donna, and their families. I share their sense of loss. I know that A.C.'s family misses him, and I know that others in Texas, including myself in those, would say great job, and we will miss you our friend.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KING of Iowa). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. OWENS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

HONORING VINCENT DANZ AND OTHER HEROES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks the second year anniversary of the most brutal acts of terrorism to ever take place on our Nation's soil. On September 11, 2001, let us not forget that families were torn apart and our way of life threatened as over 3,000 innocent lives were tragically lost in devastation at the Pentagon, World Trade Center and in Pennsylvania.

Let us also remember that September 11 was as much a day of loss and sorrow as it was a day of unprecedented heroism that poignantly demonstrated core American values of compassion, patriotism and service to country.

On that faithful morning, heroes were born as hundreds of our Nations first responders, firefighters, police officers, and other emergency personnel, selflessly and bravely lost their own lives to secure the lives and safety of others.

A good friend of mine and a resident of Long Island, Police Officer Vincent Danz, was one such hero of September 11. Vinnie Danz was among the first to respond on September 11 after a hijacked airliner crashed into the World Trade Center. Officer Danz, a member of the New York Elite Emergency Service Unit, spent his final moments helping the remaining occupants of the

North Tower escape before it collapsed at 10:29 a.m.

For those who knew Vinnie Danz, it was not at all surprising that he spent his last breath courageously filling his oath to protect and serve innocent civilians. As a 14-year veteran of the New York City Police Department, he had previously earned 17 decorations. Throughout his life, Vinnie not only dutifully answered the call to serve the residents of New York, but also his country. He was enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and at the time of his death was a marine safety technician with the Coast Guard Reserves.

Friends of Vinnie remember him as an avid Mets and Rangers fan, a straight-laced cop who loved to kid around, and most of all a loving father and husband. On September 11, Vinnie left behind his wife Angela and three small girls, Winnifred, named after his sister, and Emily and Abigail, whom he adored.

In remembering Police Officer Vinnie Danz, we honor the memory of a man whose life embodied the best of American ideals. Vinnie selflessly and courageously lived by the principles of service to community and country. In doing so, he demonstrated compassion and steadfast commitment.

Even in performing his final agents of heroism at the World Trade Center, Vinnie did not show concern for himself. Rather, he asked his wife in a final phone message to, "Say a prayer that we get some of these people out. I am okay, but say a prayer for me."

Vincent Danz was not the only Long Island hero of September 11. Lieutenant Andrew Desperito, a New York city firefighter from East Patchogue, New York, was on the 23rd floor of One World Trade Center when he found out that Tower Two had already collapsed. Before exiting the building, he ordered the rest of his team ahead and he stopped to help a woman having trouble making her escape. He had just exited the building when it collapsed. He did not survive.

There were also the Vigiano brothers, Joseph of Medford, an emergency service unit detective and his firefighter brother, John Vigiano, both of whom died that day in the line of duty when the Twin Towers fell.

The brave acts of New York's first responders helped to save the lives of 25,000 World Trade Center victims on September 11. Of those who perished, 33 were from the first district of New York. These people were professional rescuers, the finest New York had to offer. Our community's loss is great, and so is that of their families. Their plans for the future ranged from seeing their children through college to soon retiring from the force. In their common mission of saving lives on September 11, their dreams were lost and their families shattered. For their sacrifice, we owe a great debt to the police officers, firefighters and emergency workers who risked their lives on September 11.

As a Congress we not only have the responsibility to remember their acts of courage, but to carry out our duties with the same love of country, compassion to others and commitment to service.

To properly pay tribute to the lives of these courageous people, we in Congress must ensure that first responders have the support they need to remain safe and effectively carry out their life-saving duties. In addition, we must reaffirm our commitment as a Congress and as a Nation to prevent terrorists from ever again carrying out these heinous and offensive acts against Americans and other innocent people around the world.

In remembrance of these first responders from New York's first district, I will enter the names of those who perished into the RECORD.

James M. Amato, Frank Bonomo, Peter Brennan, Daniel J. Brethel, Donald James Burns, Thomas M. Butler, Nicholas Paul Chiofalo Jr., John A. Crisci, Michael Sean Curtin, Martin N. DeMeo, Andrew J. Desperito, Jerome Mark Patrick Dominguez, Michael K. Healey, Timothy B. Higgins, Andrew Jordan, Thomas Richard Kelly.

Patrick Lyons, Joseph E. Maloney, Peter C. Martin, William J. McGovern, Martin McWilliams, Thomas Moody, John Napolitano, Daniel O'Callaghan, Michael Thomas Russo Sr., Gerard Patrick Schrang, Stanley S. Smagala Jr., Kevin Joseph Smith, Lawrence T. Stack, John James Tipping II, Joseph Vincent Vigiano, Kenneth Thomas Watson, Walter Edward Weaver.

May we always remember their bravery, compassion for others, and ultimate sacrifice. We will always miss them and we will never forget.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURGESS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

ROCHESTER A'S

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I will try to handle two tributes this evening. The first is to our baseball team from Minnesota, the Rochester A's.

This summer coaches Keith Kangas and Tony Beck brought together kids from Minnesota to reach a pinnacle in baseball.